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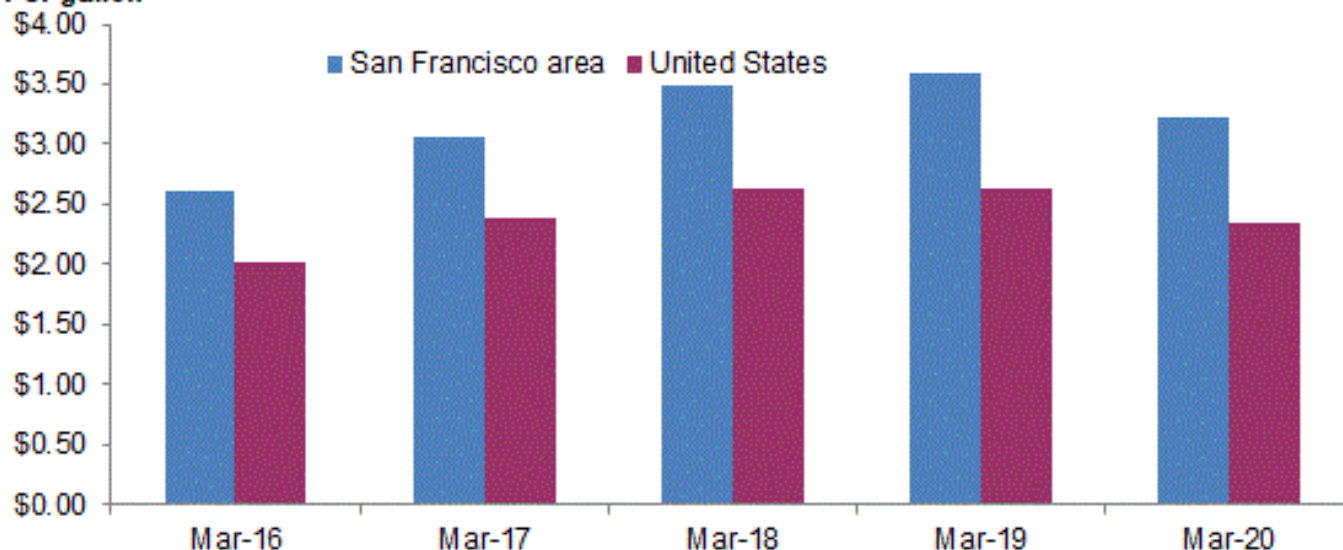
Average Energy Prices, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward – March 2020

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.213 a gallon in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward area in March 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that area gasoline prices were lower than last March when they averaged \$3.598 per gallon. San Francisco area households paid an average of 23.0 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in March 2020, higher than the 20.8 cents per kWh paid in March 2019. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.491 per therm in March was higher than the \$1.336 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$3.213 a gallon, San Francisco area consumers paid 37.7 percent more than the \$2.334 national average in March 2020. A year earlier, consumers in the San Francisco area paid 37.3 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has ranged from 28.1 to 37.7 percent above the national average in the month of March during the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))

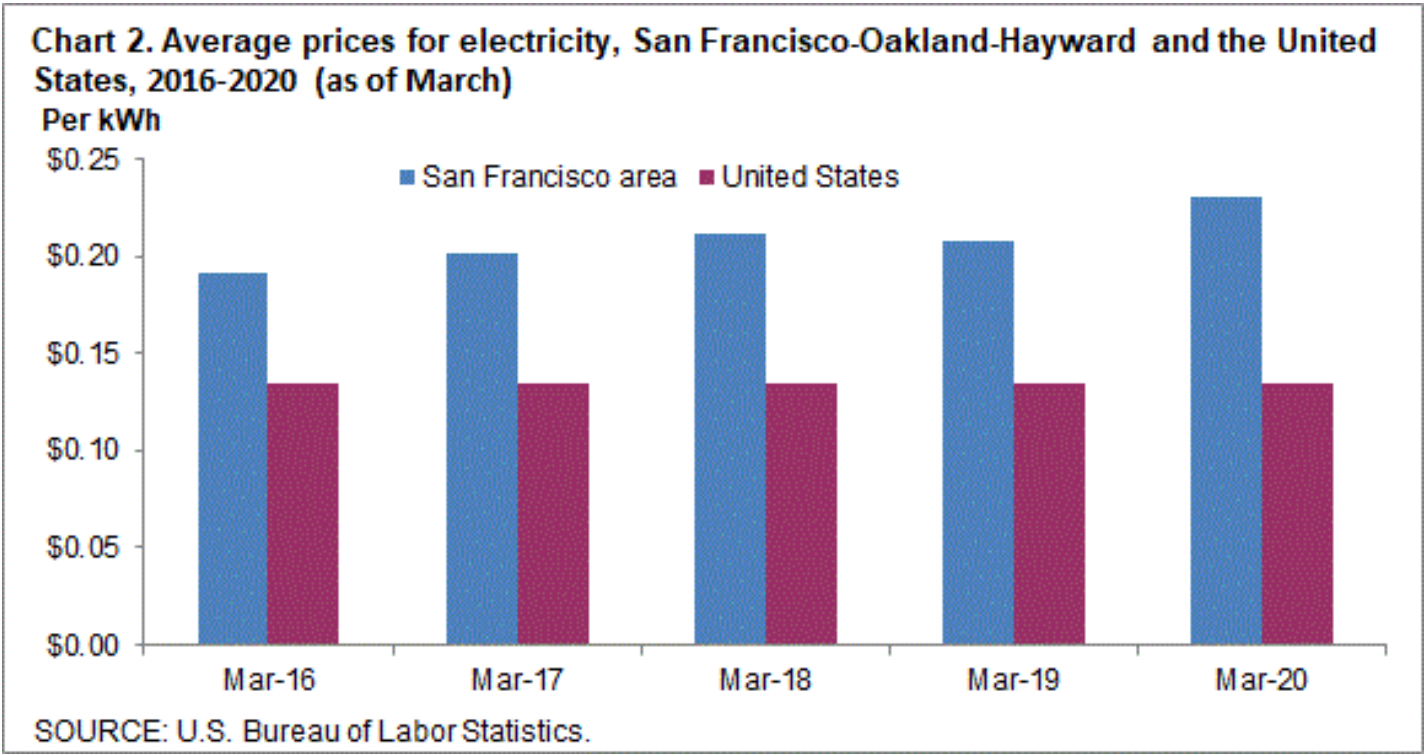
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward and the United States, 2016-2020 (as of March)

Per gallon

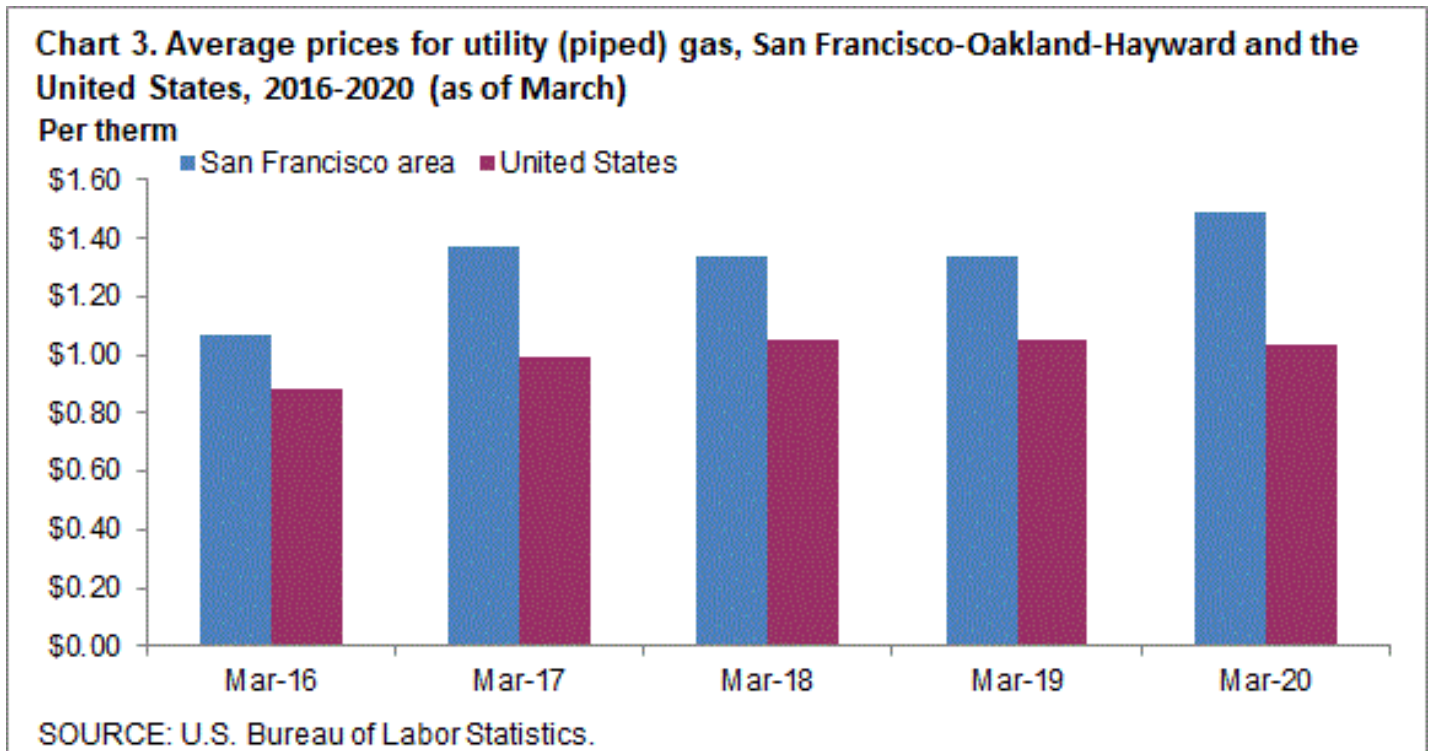


SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 23.0 cents per kWh San Francisco households paid for electricity in March 2020 was 71.6 percent more than the nationwide average of 13.4 cents per kWh. Last March, electricity costs were 54.1 percent higher in San Francisco compared to the nation. In each of the past five years, prices paid by San Francisco area consumers for electricity exceeded the U.S. average by at 42.5 percent in the month of March. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by San Francisco area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.491 per therm, or 44.2 percent above the national average in March 2020 (\$1.034 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 27.5 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in March in the San Francisco area has varied between 21.0 percent and 44.2 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



The San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, Calif. metropolitan area consists of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties in California.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm, are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward and the United States, March 2019-March 2020, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	San Francisco area	United States	San Francisco area	United States	San Francisco area	United States
2019						
March	\$3.598	\$2.620	\$0.208	\$0.135	\$1.336	\$1.048
April	3.997	2.894	0.211	0.135	1.624	1.034
May.....	4.054	2.963	0.221	0.136	1.531	1.035
June.....	3.825	2.814	0.221	0.139	1.520	1.035
July	3.712	2.836	0.222	0.140	1.597	1.029
August	3.599	2.716	0.222	0.139	1.571	1.034
September.....	3.659	2.694	0.222	0.139	1.527	1.019
October.....	4.101	2.741	0.223	0.136	1.574	1.041
November.....	3.914	2.687	0.223	0.133	1.362	1.058
December.....	3.568	2.652	0.223	0.133	1.408	1.057
2020						
January.....	3.473	2.631	0.229	0.134	1.439	1.066
February	3.430	2.530	0.229	0.134	1.452	1.050
March	3.213	2.334	0.230	0.134	1.491	1.034